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ANNUAL REPORT

The thirty-first annual meeting of the Society was held at the house of the President, 11 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, on May twenty-first, 1912. The usual routine business was transacted. The officers of the previous year were reëlected, and Mrs. John Chipman Gray was chosen a member of the Council in place of Mrs. Richard Henry Dana, who retired because of her intended absence in Europe.

It was announced that three essays had been submitted for the Dante prize, the successful competitor being Mr. Roger Theodore Lafferty. His paper, on "The Philosophy of Dante," was published with the thirtieth annual report. The essay by Dr. Ralph Hayward Keniston, which accompanies the present report, was awarded the prize in 1909.

It has long seemed to the Council desirable to encourage more general competition for the prize, and members of the Society are urged to aid in bringing this about. Although excellent essays, such as the Society has been glad to publish, have been offered from time to time, the number submitted in a single year is always very small, and only rarely is one received from a student of any college except Harvard. Arrangements have recently been made for the announcement of the prize in

the catalogues or other local publications of a number of institutions, and the Secretary has received in consequence many letters of inquiry from different parts of the country. If members will now also help to make known the terms of the competition, the chief purpose of the prize, which is to stimulate the study of Dante in American colleges, may hereafter be more adequately fulfilled.

FRED NORRIS ROBINSON

Secretary

NOVEMBER 20, 1914